

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical device (1) for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type where a body cavity is inflated to be accessible to a surgeon through an access port surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device (1) being formed to allow insertion of medical equipment and comprising:[[-]]

a cannula (6) defining a conduit into the body cavity, said cannula being sized to be received in the body cavity, and having a distal ring that engages an internal wall;

a trocar (5) carried on the cannula (6) and formed for piercing or cutting tissue to position the cannula (6); and

fixing means (7) for removably securing the cannula (6) in position on the patient during surgery,

characterized in that the trocar (5) is removably ~~mounted on~~ attached to the cannula (6), with the trocar (5) providing a gas-tight cap for the cannula when the trocar is mounted on the cannula thereby enabling the trocar (5) to be inserted into the body cavity through the access port and to cut or pierce tissue outwardly from within the body cavity out to an operating site, with no escape of gas from the body cavity.

2. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the trocar (5) and cannula (6) are removably mounted with complementary engageable short threads (12).

3. (Previously Presented) A surgical device (1) as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the trocar (5) is provided with an integral cutting element (8), thereby facilitating the cutting of the body cavity wall (2) to allow introduction of the cannula (6).

4. (Previously Presented) A surgical device (1) as claimed in claim 3, wherein the trocar (5) incorporates an extension shoulder (9).

5. (Previously Presented) A surgical device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the trocar (5) incorporates guard means for preventing injury to the surgeon.

6. (Previously Presented) A surgical device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cannula (6) incorporates means (15) for releaseably attaching the cannula to an interior (3) of the body cavity.

7. (Currently Amended) A surgical device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the means (15) for attaching the cannula (6) to an interior (3) of the body cavity is provided by [[an]] the internal distal ring (15).

8. (Previously Presented) A surgical device (1) as claimed in claim 7, in which the internal distal ring (15) and the cannula (6) are integrally formed as a single unit.

9. (Previously Presented) A surgical device (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cannula (6) incorporates a valve to prevent loss of gas from the body cavity when the cannula is in position.

10. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fixing means incorporates an anchor ring (7) formed for releasable engagement with a proximal end of the cannula (6) extending from the body when the cannula (6) is in position in the body cavity.

11. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the anchor ring (7) incorporates a thread for engaging on the same thread (12) used to secure the trocar (5) prior to installation of the cannula (6).

12. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein the anchor ring (7) incorporates a valve.

13. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 1, incorporating an external seal (901) and an internal valve (902), the seal (901) and valve (902) being mounted about opposing ends of the cannula (6)

14. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the cannula (6) is integrally formed with the seal (901) and valve (902).

15. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein the valve (902) is integrally formed at one end of the cannula (6) and has means (905) for releaseably engaging a seal housing (901) at an opposing end.

16. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 15, in which the seal housing (901) incorporates a diaphragm seal.

17. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the seal housing (901) defines an extended entry port (904).

18. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the entry port (904) has a conical section.

19. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cannula (6) incorporates an insufflation port (910).

20. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 19, in which the insufflation port (910) communicates with an insufflation lumen (912) having insufflation ducts (911) communicating between the port (910) and the body cavity.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A surgical device as claimed in claim 20;~~ A surgical device (1) for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type where a body cavity is inflated to

be accessible to a surgeon through an access port surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device (1) being formed to allow insertion of medical equipment and comprising:

a cannula (6) defining a conduit into the body cavity;

a trocar (5) carried on the cannula (6) and formed for piercing or cutting tissue to position the cannula (6); and

fixing means (7) for removably securing the cannula (6) in position on the patient during surgery.

characterized in that the trocar (5) is removably mounted on the cannula (6), with the trocar (5) providing a gas-tight cap for the cannula when the trocar is mounted on the cannula thereby enabling the trocar (5) to be inserted into the body cavity through the access port and to cut or pierce tissue outwardly from within the body cavity out to an operating site, with no escape of gas from the body cavity;

wherein the insufflation lumen (912) is carried on an exterior surface of the cannula (6).

22. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the anchor ring (7) incorporates cushion means to prevent trauma to the body cavity wall and ensure a gas tight seal.

23. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the distal ring (15) incorporates cushion means to prevent trauma to the body cavity wall and ensures a gas tight seal.

24. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 1, incorporating a detachable security retainer formed for engagement with a surgeon's hand or instrument to prevent loss of the device in the cavity prior to being fixed in position on a patient.

25. (Previously Presented) A surgical device as claimed in claim 1, incorporating an adjustable pressure release valve.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for insertion of a surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type where a body cavity is inflated to be accessible to a surgeon through an access port surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device being formed to allow insertion of medical equipment and comprising: [[-]]

a cannula defining a conduit into the body cavity, said cannula being sized to be received in the body cavity and having a distal ring that engages an internal wall;

a trocar carried on the cannula and formed for piercing or cutting tissue to position the cannula; and

fixing means for removably securing the cannula in position on the patient during surgery,

the method comprising the steps of inserting the trocar and the cannula into the body cavity through the access port, positioning the cannula and the trocar to be substantially perpendicular in orientation to the tissue, cutting or piercing the tissue outwardly and substantially perpendicularly from within the body cavity using the trocar out to an operating site and inserting a cannula in the incision made using the trocar.

27. (Withdrawn) A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type where a body cavity is inflated to be accessible to a surgeon through an access port surrounding an incision in a patients body, the device being formed to allow insertion of medical equipment and comprising, a cannula defining a conduit into or out of the body cavity and fixing means for removably securing the cannula in position on the patient during surgery, the

fixing means in turn having at least one seal, at one seal being movable along or about a longitudinal axis of the cannula to secure the device in position.

28. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in claim 27, in which the fixing means is provided by:

an inner seal having an upwardly extending conduit carried on an internal mounting ring; and

an external seal having a downwardly extending conduit carried on an external mounting ring, the upwardly and downwardly extending conduits being formed for releasable engagement when in position on a patient to define the cannula.

29. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the conduits are formed for slidable interengagement.

30. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in claim 27 or 28, in which the conduits incorporate a ratchet retainer.

31. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in claim 30, wherein each conduit is deformable to facilitate removal by disengaging the ratchet retainer.

32. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the, each mounting ring has an associated pressure absorption and seal enhancement means.

33. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the cannula incorporates a valve.

34. (Withdrawn) A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type where a body cavity is inflated to be accessible to a surgeon through an access port surrounding an incision in a patients body, the device being formed to allow insertion of medical equipment and comprising, a cannula defining a conduit into or out of the body cavity and fixing means for removably securing the cannula in position on the

patient during surgery provided by an external and an internal mounting ring, one or both rings being pivotally movable about a longitudinal axis of the cannula.

35. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in claim 36, in which the cannula is collapsible under pressure from one or both mounting rings to secure the cannula in position.

36. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in claim 35, in which the cannula is provided by a section of pleated tubing carried on the device.

37. (Withdrawn) A surgical device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the external mounting ring defines an entry funnel having an oversize entry aperture for receiving and facilitating insertion of a piece of medical equipment.